

REMARKS

This is an amendment in support of the RCE and to the office action finally rejecting claims 1-5 mailed March 13, 2003. A notice of appeal was timely filed on June 12, 2003 and a petition to extend the time for perfecting the appeal or filing an RCE is filed concurrently herewith.

The rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toth in view of Grass is traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the scope of the present invention. According to the present invention there is provided a method for acquiring an elongated radiographic image including:

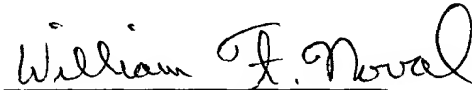
1. Positioning an elongated stationary object between a stationarily but pivotally mounted source of x-rays and a flat digital image large area capture device having a known imaging dimension which is less than a like dimension of the elongated object.
2. Moving the flat image capture device in a planar direction parallel to the known imaging dimension to sequential contiguous positions to acquire a sequence of radiographic images of the elongated object; and
3. Rotating the source of x-rays about a first fixed axis which is perpendicular to the direction of moving the planar image capture device and which is in a plane spaced from a parallel to the planar direction the device is moved in, in coordination with the device moving in order to project the x-rays from the x-ray source toward the image capture device.

Neither Grass nor Toth taken individually or in combination make obvious the claimed invention. Thus, both Toth and Grass disclose computed tomography devices having curved not flat detector arrays (See: Grass-Fig. 1, element 16, Grass-Fig. 1, element 18). Moreover, the x-ray sources 5 in Grass and 14 in Toth are not stationary but pivotally mounted as defined by claim 1, but rather are mounted for rotation about center of rotation 24 in Toth and axis of rotation 14 in Grass. In neither reference, is the digital image capture device moved in a planar direction parallel to the known imaging dimension, rather in both Toth and Grass the sensor arrays are moved in a circumferential and helical direction about the elongated object. Finally, the source of x-rays in both Toth and Grass is not rotated about a fixed axis which is perpendicular to the direction

of moving the image capture device and which is in a plane spaced from and parallel to said planar direction.

Clearly, the invention defined by the claims is novel and nonobvious over the cited references and should be allowed. Speedy allowance is therefore solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 22,049

William F. Noval/law
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-477-5272
Facsimile: 585-477-4646